

F 129

.N7 R2



Or worse, to feel a tyrant's sway.
May such alone be unprotected
By justice, and by nature's laws,
And to despotic powers subjected,
Suffer the miseries they cause.
To scorn them is each maiden's duty,
Let them no children have nor wife,
May they ne'er meet the smiles of beauty,
Nor any social charms of life.

Among the writers of these early times Susanna Rowson was a notable exception in that she forsook hymn writing and the manufacturing of moral tales, and ventured to tell the love story of Charlotte Temple. That she told it well is proved by the fact that in old Trinity Church yard one often sees fresh flowers laid on the supposed grave of the unfortunate heroine. The hero, or the villain, as you will, is drawn in strongest colors. We are told "he paid little heed to moral duties and less to religious ones, that he was eager in the pursuit of pleasure, minding not the miseries inflicted on others"—finally that "he was dissipated, thoughtless and capricious." Ah, well-a-day, and yet Charlotte loved him!

Thus our grandmothers in the days when to make one's mark was a distinction, made their mark in the literature of the day, while we, their grandchildren, who bake less bread, dip fewer candles and spin no thread at all, thank them heartily for their pioneer work on song and story.

Account of the Unveiling of the Tablet on the Site of the Old Palatine Church, May 30, 1899.

BY CORNELIA W. RANKIN.

Historian for Quassaick Chapter, D. A. R.

During the severe winter of 1708-1709, a little party of pilgrims sailed up Hudson's river and landed at what was then and is now called Quassaick Creek, a short distance south of the city of Newburgh. The little band were weary and impoverished after their wanderings, and very beautiful and restful must these green hills and broad river have seemed, reminding them of their dearly loved Rhine; for they had fled from the Palatinate, a strip of territory lying along that river, including what is now known as Bavaria. They were the subjects of religious persecution at the hands of the French king, who was continually at war with the neighboring countries.

When Louis XIV gave orders for the destruction of this prosperous community, some of the inhabitants fled to England, where they were supplied with funds, and then started for America where they sought both religious and political freedom.

They were given possession of a tract of 2,200 acres of land lying on the west side of the river and north of Quassaick creek, and this settlement took the name of "The Palatine Parish of Quassaick." The lands granted included 500 acres set apart as a Glebe for the support of a minister, the term Glebe being derived from an old English word meaning land surrounding and belonging to a parish church.

These early pioneers were a law-abiding and industrious people. In the Palatinate they had founded a Lutheran Church, their minister, Rev. Joshua de Kockerthal, came with them, but did not locate at Quassaick, a larger flock requiring his attention in Northern Ulster; nevertheless they had more or less ministerial attention by itinerant Lutheran preachers, and erected for their accommodation a humble edifice on the Glebe, which, after occupation for over half a century for religious purposes, was ultimately converted into a school house, for what was known as the "Glebe School." In this occupation it remained until time and the elements worked its decay, and led to its removal about the year 1845.

It was to mark the site of the original church that Quassaick Chapter, in the presence of invited friends, members of other Chapters, the ministers of the city and interested citizens of the town, unveiled a handsome bronze tablet, in the Old Town Burying Ground, on the afternoon of Memorial Day, 1899. They assembled at the Palatine Hotel and, with the members of the Historical Society and representatives of other Chapters, proceeded in a body to the cemetery, at the entrance of which, and near the platform erected under the trees, was a detail of soldiers from



ON THIS GREE SITE WAS ERECTED ABOUT 1780
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE PRIMITIVE FAITH
OF QUASSAICK

REV. MICHAEL CHRISTIAN KNOLL, PASTOR

FROM JULY 19 1787 - THE REV. HENRIK WILHELM
OF THE CHURCH OF ISLAND
HELD SERVICES FOR ABOUT TWENTY-FOUR YEARS

ERECTED BY QUASSAICK CHAPTER
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
1859

the National Guard. The stand was draped with the American flag and adorned with flowers, and on it were seated: The orator of the day, General Horatio King, of Brooklyn; Mayor B. B. Odell; Rev. Rufus Emery, President of the Historical Society of Newburgh Bay and the Highlands; the Rev. William Junge, pastor of the Lutheran Church; Rev. William K. Hall, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church; Mr. Russel Headley, Mr. A. Y. Weller, Mr. E. M. Ruttenber, and Mr. William Vanamee, master of ceremonies. After a few appropriate remarks by Mr. Vanamee, Rev. Mr. Junge offered prayer, and a well trained chorus of twenty voices followed with the beautiful selection, "Angel of Peace."

Mr. Russel Headley in well chosen words introduced General King, who spoke of the great work accomplished by the Daughters of the American Revolution and kindred societies, and dwelt at length upon the stirring events of the present time and the new and perplexing problems brought for our solution in the recent war. At the conclusion of his address, the assemblage joined heartily with the choir in singing "America."

Mrs. Nellie Maltby Shipp, Regent of Quassaick Chapter, then presented the memorial tablet to the Mayor and Commissioners of the Old Town Cemetery, and in fitting words spoke of the work to which the Daughters had pledged themselves in rescuing from oblivion places of historic interest, in fostering the spirit of patriotism and in work of the present, as well as the past, as exemplified in the experience of the alleviation of suffering and hardship during the late war. In accepting the memorial in behalf of the Mayor and the Commissioners of the Old Town Burying Ground, Rev. Dr. Hall referred to the enduring character of the memorial tablet and its significance in creating a deep interest in perpetuating the deeds of the "forefathers of the hamlet." In a few words addressed to the Daughters present, he said: "You are thus, in this commemorative act, giving a noble and abiding expression to the truth of the motto chosen for the seal of your Chapter, 'Dignus virtute avorum.' This act is a signal proof that your organization exists, not for merely cultivating a pride in having an ancestry who by their labors, sufferings and sacrifices won and bequeathed to us these free institutions of our beloved land, but above all else to cherish and perpetuate the memories of their virtues."

After the band had played a selection, Mr. Vanamee introduced the Rev. Rufus Emery, President of the Historical Society, which had shown an active interest in the undertaking. After some earnest remarks, Rev. Mr. Emery pronounced the benediction. The audience having joined in singing "The Star Spangled Banner," were dismissed, and thus ended the ceremonies attending the first work of public importance inaugurated by the Daughters of the American Revolution, in placing a record in enduring stone to preserve the memory of past events, and to serve as an example of work of equal historic interest to be accomplished in the future.

Granite posts connected by chains mark the limits of the plot where stood the church of the Palatine forefathers, and in the centre stands a

boulder, conveyed from the neighboring hills, bearing the tablet. In the upper left hand corner is the insignia of the Society and below in raised letters, is this inscription:

“ On this Glebe site was erected, about 1730, the Lutheran Church of the Palatine Parish of Quassaick, Rev. Michael Christian, Knoll, pastor. From July 10, 1747, Rev. Hezekiah Watkins, of the Church of England, held services for about twenty-five years. Erected by Quassaick Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1899.”



PALATINE CHURCH, 1730.



MAY 78



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 014 205 544 2

